

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 ARA-16 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 INT-08 RSR-01 /164 W

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R 172259Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9098

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 2915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN COMITE OF 24

REFS: USUN 2894; MOSCOW 9780 & PREVIOUS

1. AT COMITE OF 24 PLENARY MEETING MORNING AUG. 17,
ACTING CHAIRMAN EHSASSI (IRAN), IN ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN SALIM,
ANNOUNCED THAT CONSULTATIONS NOW UNDERWAY ON QUESTION OF
WHETHER COMITE SHOULD HEAR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE
LEADERS IN CONNECTION WITH PUERTO RICAN ITEM. NO MEMBERS
OF COMITE PREPARED TO SPEAK ON QUESTION TODAY AND
AFTERNOON MEETING OF COMITE CANCELLED.

2. JUST PRIOR TO MEETING, MISOFF DISCUSSED COMITE HANDLING
OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE WITH USSR REP NEKLESSA. NEKLESSA
SAID US SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY USSR POSITION ON ISSUE
WHICH IS LONG-STANDING ONE. MISOFF RESPONDED THAT US CONCERNED
AT THIS POINT NOT WITH POSITION BUT WITH POSSIBILITY
THAT COMITE, WITH STRONG USSR SUPPORT, MAY DECIDE ABRUPTLY
TO GIVE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE LEADERS A HEARING,
BEFORE EVEN DECIDING HOW TO IMPLEMENT LAST YEAR'S
RESOLUTION. US SIMPLY UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHY USSR NEEDS
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TO PUSH SO HARD ON ISSUE WHICH WILL CAUSE GREAT

RESENTMENT IN INFLUENTIAL US CIRCLES. NEKLESSA,
SHRUGGING HIS SHOULDERS, CLAIMED THAT SOVIETS NOT
ENTHUSIASTICALLY PUSHING ISSUE BUT THAT "USSR MUST HELP
ITS FRIENDS" (READ CUBA). MISOFF AGAIN URGED USSR MISSION
TO RECONSIDER NEED FOR ACTING SO PRECIPITOUSLY ON QUESTION
OF GRANTING A HEARING TO PUERTO RICANS AT THIS TIME.

3. COMITE VICE CHAIRMAN EHSASSI FOLLOWING THROUGH ON
HIS PROMISE TO US TO DELAY PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS AS
LONG AS POSSIBLE. AUSTRALIANS AND SWEDES HAVE ASSURED US
THAT, WHEN CONSULTED, THEY WILL STRONGLY OPPOSE GIVING PUERTO
RICANS A HEARING. AUSTRALIANS CONTINUING TO GIVE US
INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN COMITE ON THIS ISSUE.

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